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Curriculum Study

USING CRITICAL LITERACY TO TEACH
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT TO A CLASS
OF FORM 3 'SPECIALS'

TOPIC:

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ABSTRACT

USING CRITICAL LITERACY TO TEACH CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT TO A CLASS OF FORM 3 'SPECIALS'

Critical literacy is an approach that seeks to maximise the connections that can be made between the home or cultural environment of the learner and the formal education system. This study seeks to investigate the extent to which a critical literacy approach is beneficial in assisting a group of 'special' students at the form three level in acquiring the basic competency needed to respond appropriately to character development in the novel *Life of Laetitia*.

Adolescent preoccupations with concepts of identity, making choices, dealing with change were chosen as the particular themes to be studied under character development which are relevant to the age group who make up the study. Quantitative and qualitative methods of assessment were employed to monitor the effectiveness of the intervention.

The findings bear out the founding principle of critical literacy, that a context specific approach to teaching where the text and activities are related to the cultural and social environment will positively assist lower achieving students to grasp and respond relevantly to the issues posed in literary works. However these students need more time to achieve the mastery level required.